

Skilful students surprise Wycombe

Wycombe Wanderers 0, British Colleges 1.
Report by STUART EARP

IN front of a crowd of barely 60 people, Wycombe Wanderers slipped and skated to a surprise defeat against a skilful British Colleges side at Loakes Park in Tuesday night's friendly.

The result is really immaterial, for conditions made this purely a game of chance. There were doubts before the match that football would be played at all, but after an exploratory 35 minute first half, local referee Lee Archer played extra time after the interval.

At least the game gave Wanderers the chance to get last Saturday's dismal display out of their system and without doubt, this match was far better value. It was good to see Paul Birdseye back in the side, if only for the last 20 minutes.

Wycombe were probably surprised by the College players who adapted themselves well to the frozen conditions. Several of these youngsters caught the eye including Mick Stratford and Gavin Fraser. The latter played for Sutton at Loakes Park last season.

The students kept their game simple and supported each other well, especially in the first half. Lighter and faster than the Blues, they were able to keep their balance while Wanderers skidded around the field. Terry Reardon and Dave Alexander were the pick of the home players in the first half while Malcolm Jones and Tony Horseman both wasted good chances to score.

Wanderers had the better of the long second half. After 60 minutes a Howard Kennedy corner was flighted to the six yard box where Fraser tried to clear. He only succeeded in heading the ball onto his own crossbar and stood relieved as his defence bundled the ball away.

Judgement of the unpredictable bounce was quite an art in these conditions and once the ball was past a player, there was little chance of recovery.

Wycombe were desperately unlucky not to take the lead after 71 minutes. Another Kennedy corner was curved into the goalmouth where Bruce Macrae nodded home. The referee disallowed the goal for a foul on the goalkeeper but Macrae was in

front of Des Kelly, who had seemed to misjudge the flight of the ball.

Macrae was obviously disappointed and proceeded to play his best football of the game after his effort had been ruled out. Four minutes later he crashed in a rising drive from 20 yards which Kelly had to tip over for a corner.

Although Wycombe had been doing all the pressing in the second half, their back four looked susceptible to the breakaways and after Bob Mapleson and Martin Bateman had gone close, the Colleges stole the result with a goal in the 85th minute. Fraser flighted the ball to the far side of the penalty area where Keith Mead was unable to control the ball. It ran loose for a second, long enough for Les Reid to ram a shot past Peter Spittle.

WYCOMBE: Pz Spittle; D. Bullock (sub P. Birdseye 70 mins), K. Mead, J. Delaney, R. Eaton, H. Kennedy (sub G. Anthony 80 mins), T. Reardon, D. Alexander, A. Horseman (sub D. Evans 45 mins), M. Jones, B. Macrae.

COLLEGES: D. Kelly; W. Wilkinson, G. Griffiths (sub S. Mackintosh 45 mins), E. Dale (sub K. Davis 61 mins), R. Strong; R. Mackay, R. Mapleson, M. Stratford, G. Fraser, M. Bateman, L. Reid.

Referee: L. Archer (High Wycombe).

Half time: 0-0. **Goalscorer,** Colleges — Reid (85).

Approximate attendance: 60.

Saints lose

CHALFONT St. Peter F. C. held Isthmian League Hitchin Town to 1-0 at half time in Tuesday's friendly at Topfield before going down 4-0. Tracey Warren hit a post for the Saints early on but three goals in the last 15 minutes proved decisive.



Hugh Wilson lofts the ball upfield to set up a Dulwich attack in Saturday's game against Wycombe.

HOW THEY STAND

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE											Penalty points	
DIVISION ONE												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	C	D			
Enfield	25	16	5	4	52	20	53	4	4			
Ilford	27	15	6	6	36	25	51	9	0			
Dagenham	25	15	4	6	58	33	49	2	0			
Wycombe Wanderers	27	14	7	6	41	28	48	2	0			
Dulwich Hamlet	29	15	3	11	51	29	48	3	4			
Hendon	28	14	6	8	39	21	48	1	4			
Sutton United	23	12	6	5	49	27	42	1	0			
Slough Town	30	11	9	10	41	37	41	5	8			
Barking	27	12	5	10	41	37	41	5	8			
Tooting & Mitcham Utd	21	11	5	5	37	22	38	7	0			
Hitchin Town	30	10	8	12	30	37	38	1	0			
Staines Town	26	10	7	9	28	24	37	4	0			
Kingstonian	28	11	4	13	41	64	37	2	0			
Leatherhead	22	10	5	7	37	34	35	5	0			
Woking	29	7	13	9	30	44	34	5	4			
Bishop's Cleeve	29	9	4	16	40	48	31	8	4			
Oxford City	24	8	6	10	27	29	30	1	0			
Southall & Ealing	26	7	8	13	21	37	28	3	0			
Walthamstow Avenue	26	6	7	12	31	41	28	7	0			
Leytonstone	25	6	6	13	34	42	24	2	0			
Clapton	30	5	9	16	23	46	24	5	0			
	31	2	1	28	11	83	7	7	0			